

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1915 (NO. 44; NOS. 40896 TO 41314).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory covers the period between July 1 and September 30, 1915, and describes 419 introductions, the major part of which have been secured by correspondence.

There is, however, one notable collection, made by Mr. O. F. Cook in the Peruvian Andes, where he was sent as a representative of the Department of Agriculture on the Yale-National Geographic Society Peruvian Expedition to find out the character of the agriculture of the peoples who produced such remarkable terraced hillsides as those in the region back of Cuzco. (See *National Geographic Magazine*, vol. 29, pp. 474-534, May, 1916.) Mr. Cook's collections furnish striking evidence of the antiquity of these peoples, through the variety and character of their food plants, in particular their highly developed root crops, some of which appear to be nearly as important to the present inhabitants of this mountain region as does the potato itself. The great variety in shape and color of the potato, which is a staple crop there, and the distinctive names by which these many forms are known are further evidence of the age of the civilization through which this most remarkable of all food vegetables was introduced into universal cultivation. The immense value of this one Peruvian tuber, which has met with such success throughout the world, should encourage us to look more closely at the other root crops which were developed probably by the same people who developed the potato. Mr. Cook's collections will assist us in doing this and in discovering the regions in this country sufficiently similar climatically to that of the high Peruvian altitudes where these crops are grown to make it possible to establish these new root crops in America. Our high altitudes are unfortunately much warmer than the Peruvian in summer and incomparably colder in winter. Mr. Cook believes that the cool coastal climate of southern California ap-

NOTE.—This bulletin is intended for distribution to the agricultural experiment stations and the more important private cooperators of the Department of Agriculture.